

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Youth Perspectives on Climate Justice Work Group

Membership Solicitation
FAQ (October 14, 2015)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is convening the Youth Perspectives on Climate Justice Work Group at the request of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). The work group is tasked to research and develop proposed findings and recommendations in response to EPA's charge to the NEJAC on youth perspectives on climate justice and climate change.

What issues will the Youth Perspectives on Climate Justice Work Group be working on for 2015-2016?

During 2015-2016, the work group will explore several issues, with the goal of drafting proposed findings and recommendations for consideration by the NEJAC:

1. How can EPA effectively engage with youth on climate change and adaptation planning using new resources and tools designed to help communities become more resilient and better protect themselves from the impacts of climate change? What activities and mechanisms (e.g. policy, guidance, or protocol) should EPA consider to authentically engage and work collaboratively with youth, and other interested stakeholders, to identify and address climate change impacts on overburdened and vulnerable communities?
2. What best practices, including efforts to address the compounding health vulnerabilities brought on by climate change, can be provided using youth driven projects from across the United States from which results-oriented recommendations can be drawn?
3. Other issues that may be placed on the Climate Justice Work Group agenda during the year.

What positions are vacant?

EPA is seeking 15 young adults, ages 18 to 29, who are involved in climate change efforts and/or advocacy. For 2015, EPA is seeking nominations from the 50 U.S. states, territories, and District of Columbia. Nominees will be considered according to the mandates of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), which requires committees to maintain diversity across a broad range of constituencies, sectors, and groups. The members of this work group will be appointed for two-year terms.

How often will the Youth Perspectives on Climate Justice Work Group meet? What is the time commitment for members? What activities are required of members?

The work group will conduct its business primarily through bimonthly teleconference calls. This work group may meet face-to-face once annually. The average workload for the members is approximately 4 to 5 hours per month, which represents a rough estimate of the time members will spend in teleconference calls and reviewing relevant documents. Between meetings, work group members may draft language for other members to review. We are exploring the use of webinars as well.

Is travel involved? If so, how frequent, for how long, and to where? Who pays for travel?

Members serve on the Work Group in a voluntary capacity. When travel is required, EPA reimburses invitational travelers for all relevant travel expenses associated with official government business. Currently, EPA pays for lodging and transportation (air/rail) and reimburses travelers for other relevant and appropriate out-of-pocket incidental travel expenses, such as mileage reimbursement, taxis to and from the airport, etc. Members also receive a meal per diem reimbursement in accordance with the Federal Travel per diems established by the U.S. General Services Administration. Travel for a 2-day face-to-face meeting typically involves 3 days of travel, with

members traveling the day before the meeting and returning the evening of the second day or the morning of the third day. Meetings are held throughout the continental United States, in locations such as Washington, DC; Albuquerque, NM; Kansas City, MO, and Brooklyn, NY.

Who CAN NOT serve on the Youth Perspectives on Climate Justice Work Group?

Work Group membership will be comprised of young adults ages 18 to 29 to reflect the nature of this specific charge which is focused on youth perspectives. The following individuals are ineligible to serve on this work group:

- Persons younger than 18 years old and older than 29 years old.
- Federal Employees – the NEJAC charter stipulates that members are non-federal

How many letters of recommendation are typical for an applicant? (Or, said another way, how many is too many and how few is too few?)

Nominees are required to have at least one letter of recommendation, although several nominees have submitted two or more recommendation letters.

Would you suggest more or fewer applicants from an EPA Region?

The NEJAC, as a federal advisory committee, is comprised of a wide range of stakeholders who represent diverse points of view; they do not represent EPA regions. Geographic diversity is just one factor in the selection of the final slate of applicants proposed for membership; as such, there are no limits to the number of applicants from each region. Anyone can nominate a person for consideration. Self-nominations are encouraged.

Is it appropriate for EPA staff to provide a letter of recommendation?

Anyone, including federal employees, can nominate individuals for membership on the work group. In addition, federal employees can submit letters of recommendation supporting the nomination of an individual for membership. Such letters can be drafted either in their capacity as a private citizen, or in their capacity as a federal employee if they have the authority to represent their Agency in such matters.